

the Synod and Commission; on the Records of Presbyteries; on the Synod Fund, for the appointing of ministers to preach in the congregations in Kingston and the neighbourhood on the next Lord's day.

The Synod agreed to meet this evening in Brock-street Church, to hear the Reports of Presbyteries, on their Home Mission. Mr. McGilvray, Deputy from the Free Church, was requested to address the Synod and the congregation that may assemble.

Thursday, June 3, 3 P.M.

The Synod met and was constituted with prayer. Report of the Committee on Bills and Ordinances read.

In conformity with the recommendation of that Committee it was agreed that the arrangements for business shall be as follows:—

The Synod to meet every morning at 9 o'clock, to spend an hour in devotional exercises, to meet at 10 for business, and to close at 1 P.M.; to meet at 3 P.M., and close at 6; and, to meet in the evening at 7 or 7½, as circumstances may require, it being understood that at the former meeting the Synod may sit in Committee or Committees, and that in the evening matters more generally interesting to the Christian community shall be taken up.

The Committee on arranging for Ministers to preach in Kingston and neighbouring places on Sabbath next, reported and the report was received and adopted.

The Synod called for the report of the Committee for preparing a letter to the General Assembly in Ireland; it was reported that the letter had not yet been prepared.

The Synod appointed that a draft of such letter shall be prepared during the Session of the Synod, Mr. Bayne, Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Reid, Ministers, Mr. Steer, Elder, to be a Committee for that purpose.

Mr. Bayne reported that he had not been able to prepare the Pastoral letter.

Mr. Gale in behalf of the Committee, on the Model Trust Deed, reported that the copy of a Model Trust Deed was still in the hands of Legal Counsel, to whom it had been referred.

The Synod re-appointed the Committee, with instructions to hasten the finishing of the draft, and issuing the same.

Mr. Smellie in behalf of the Committee on a Scheme of a Widows' Fund, reported progress. The Committee were instructed to report before the rising of the Synod, and Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Reid, Mr. Lochhead, Ministers; Mr. McAlister, Dr. Dickson, Hon. John Macdonald, Elders, and James Walker, Esq., Secretary to the Sustentation Board, were added to the Committee.

It was reported by the Clerk, in absence of Dr. Burns, Convener, of the Committee on visitors, that the digest of the returns of visitations had not yet been completed.

The Synod re-appointed the Committee with instructions to have the digest finished and to submit the same to the first ordinary meeting of Commission.

Mr. Gale gave in a report concerning the *Missionary Record*.

The Synod appointed the following Committee: Mr. Gale, Convener, Mr. Robb, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Smellie, Mr. Rogers, Ministers, Mr. MacMillan, Mr. Lister, Mr. McAlister, Elders, to consider

KNOX'S COLLEGE.

Report of the College Committee, to the Synod, June, 1847.

God often allows his people to be frustrated in the enterprises in which they have engaged for the advancement of his kingdom. Yet, the want of success, however trying it may be to the faith of his servants, is not in all cases a token of his disapprobation. The lessons which he is teaching

may point to an issue very different from that of the abandonment of their enterprises and labours. Your Committee have had their own trials and difficulties in the important department of Ministerial Labour, which has been committed to them. But they desire in the outset of this Report distinctly to recognise the grace which has been imparted to them, by the Great Head of the Church, in the large measure of success with which he has been pleased to bless them. The number of Students in attendance has been, well nigh, double that of the preceding Session. The Studies have embraced a wider range—they have been prosecuted during a Session of full 22 weeks, with untiring ardour—the progress of the Students, in the various classes, has been very marked—and, indications are not wanting that a spirit of deep and enlightened piety is also on the increase among them. Prayer, it may be hoped, has had some instrumentality in procuring these precious, and unmerited blessings to our Church, and we thus record them, that thanksgivings and praise may be rendered unto our gracious God and Saviour.

The want of a permanent Professor of Theology exclusively devoted to the College still exists—That want was supplied during last winter in so far as it could be done, by another respected Deputy, from the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland, the Rev. R. McCorkle, of St. Ninians. That gentleman arrived in Toronto at the commencement of the Session—and secluding himself, to a great extent, from other ministerial employments, he gave himself unto the very close of the Session to labours, literally, night and day, for the Students and with them. And it is to his devoted and unobtrusive labours, under God, that your Committee attribute much of the success in study of the late Session.

Your Committee have acknowledged, so far as a vote of thanks goes, their sense of the obligations under which the Church at large have been laid to the Colonial Committee of the Free Church, which sent him forth, to himself for undertaking and executing so well the commission given to him, and to the congregation at St. Ninians, for sparing him so long to our College in this land.

Your Committee have been permitted to draw on the same Committee to the extent of Twenty-five Pounds Sterling, to the Bursary Fund.

STUDENTS.

The number of Students that were enrolled during the Session is 37. Of this number one, Mr. James Duncan kindly sent forth to us, by the Colonial Committee of the Free Church, was not in actual attendance, at the recommendation of the Committee, the Presbytery of Montreal, within whose bounds he was acting as a Catechist, kindly directed and superintended his studies.

CLASSES.

The classes taught were, in all fourteen, as follows:—

1. Junior Latin, by the Rev. A. Gale, Principal of the Academy.
2. Senior Latin, ditto.
3. Junior Greek, ditto.
4. Senior Greek, ditto.
5. Mathematics taught in the Academy by the Rev. Thos. Wightman.
6. Moral Philosophy, by Rev. Professor Essoe.
7. Mental Philosophy, do.
8. Senior Hebrew, by Rev. Wm. Rintoul.
9. Junior Hebrew, do.
10. Biblical Criticism, do.
11. Rhetoric, Rev. Professor McCorkle.
12. Evidences of Natural and Revealed Religion, ditto.
13. Systematic Theology, ditto.
14. Church History and Pastoral Theology by Rev. Robert Burns, D.D.

A Fund for Bursaries to the amount of £125 currency was raised. The donation from the Colonial Committee of the Free Church, already acknowledged, and a part of the interest of the bequest of Isaac Buchanan, Esq., went to make up this sum, the rest of it was raised by contributions from Congregations and Associations. It was deemed most advisable to dispense

these so as to make them incentives to study, and they were awarded in sums varying from 5 to £15: three were given as rewards for Essays, on subjects previously prescribed, and eleven for the best extemporaneously written answers to questions, and heads of examination on the studies of every several class, dictated at the time of competition.

The competition took place in the end of February, and the result was highly satisfactory. It is hoped that henceforth the competition for similar rewards may be made at the opening of each winter Session; and the Committee are preparing to publish the subjects of examination for the bursaries of the next winter Session. So that Students may be so far directed and excited to study during the summer vacation.

At the close of the Session, prizes of books were also distributed in every class, three in most cases, on the votes of the Students themselves.

EMPLOYMENT OF STUDENTS AS CATECHISTS.

During the Session, as heretofore, several of the Students were occasionally called out to labour as catechists on the Lord's Day, in the Stations around Toronto.

Your Committee do not feel it to be necessary to defend this employment of Students, since whatever objections may be made against it, it is in some respects justified by necessity. Indeed the want of preachers is so very great that were we now to receive no aid from our Students in preaching in Mission Stations, and vacant congregations, we should be driven to what would be a worse alternative of taking them out of the class of Students, and sending them prematurely forth as Probationers.

It will be recollected that at the last meeting of the Synod, two of the Students received a qualified permission to be taken on trial for licenser, neither of them, however, availed themselves of this permission, but attended the College during the whole Session. The gentlemen alluded to are Mr. James Boyd and Mr. Robert F. Burns. They have since the close of the Session, however, appeared before the Presbytery of Toronto, and are now raised to the status of Probationers. Some of the others have finished the Collegiate Course.

Mr. Essoe, besides attending to his own proper class, gave a large share of his valuable time and labours to the Academy; of which we shall by-and-by speak. He is now giving a short summer course of lectures in Moral Philosophy, while he still gives a measure of attention to the Academy; and some of the Students are attending on his lectures, and are at the same time enjoying the advantages of the Academy. The most of the others, whose progress and gifts at all warrant their taking part in conducting religious exercises, are employed as catechists in different parts of the country.

OF THE ACADEMY.

It may now be proper to speak of the Academy. The instructions of the Synod regarding such an Institution, first, indeed, recommended to the Synod by the College Committee, were of a general nature; and, the committee felt that a large discretion was allowed them in regard to many things connected with its external organization. One of the first steps towards its establishment, which the committee took, was the appointing of the Rev. Mr. Gale, of Hamilton, first Master or Principal. They had great confidence that the varied qualifications required for the head of such an Institution were to be found united in him in an eminent degree; and this judgment, we believe, has been sustained by all who are acquainted with him.

As Mr. Gale was a Pastor, and connected with a most important ministerial charge, the committee, with a view to the making of it manifest to all that he was still to be an instructor within the church, as well as because of the intimate connexion between the Academy and the College, appointed him Professor of Classical Literature in Knox's College, as well as Principal of the Academy. This appointment in the College the committee feel confident the Synod will sanction.

It is proceeding with subsequent arrangements,